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NEWS RELEASE

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HEAR THE BEEP WHERE YOU SLEEP Branson Fire & Rescue Promotes Fire Safety During National Fire Prevention Week October 4-10

Fires can strike anywhere – in structures, automobiles, and the outdoors – but fires that affect our homes are often the most tragic and the most preventable. During the week of October 4-10, Branson Firefighters will team up the National Fire Protection Association and other fire departments to promote this year's campaign of "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep!"

"This year's campaign focuses on reducing fire injuries and deaths in residential fires," stated Branson Fire Chief Ted Martin. "Smoke alarms save lives by providing early detection and warning of a fire thus increasing time to escape while reducing the chances of dying in a residential fire in half," added Chief Martin. Firefighters encourage residents to place a smoke alarm in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area such as in hallways, and on every level of the home.

Smoke alarms need to be maintained as well and have a fire escape plan should a fire start in the home. "We encourage residents to test their smoke alarms once each month and to replace the batteries twice a year in conjunction with the daylight savings time change. Residents are also encouraged to develop a home fire escape plan for the family designating two ways out of each room of the home with a meeting place determined outside," added Martin.

Firefighters from all area fire departments will be presenting fire prevention programs at area schools, business and civic organizations throughout the month of October. For more information contact the Branson Fire Department at (417) 243-2780 or on our web site at www.bransonmo.gov/fire or on the NFPA web site at www.NFPA.org.